

MINUTES
BELLE ISLE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 16, 2015

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Belle Isle Flynn Pavilion
Detroit, Michigan 48207

Present for Belle Isle Advisory Committee (BIPAC)

Michelle Hodges

Michael Curis

Ron Olson

Scott Pratt

Rev. Lonnie Peek Arrived at 9:32 a.m

Sommer Woods Arrived at 10:17 a.m.

9:06 a.m. - Hodges stated that the meeting could not officially start until a Quorum is established.

Excused Absences

Bud Denker

Alicia Bradford

Unexcused Absences

Bryan Barnhill

General Updates

Law Enforcement

Lieut. Shaw spoke about fireworks and how successful the day went. No arrests or parking tickets. Troopers are patrolling on bicycles at the park. Overall, very quiet on the island. Ron mentioned that Sgt. Green has been promoted to Lieutenant.

Staffing

2 new rangers – Belle Isle Working nights

1 new ranger – Milliken

Interviews for Ranger - Friday, July 17th - Belle Isle (Events)

Interviewing for GOA – Belle Isle

Volunteer Coordinator Genevieve Nowack – Conservancy and DNR - July 22

Planning Coordinator Amanda Hertl – DNR - July 20

Public Survey Update

Ron Olson gave a brief update on the public survey update. Survey will be instituted sometime in August on the park. Also a random survey will be generated for residents. Advisory committee will participate in generating the questions on the survey.

Infrastructure Issues and Updates

Karis spoke about repairs to the Flynn

Driving Range – Water Pressure Issue

Carrie Warren from MDOT – Strand road work, Central, Sunset Pointe

Events

Olson - Senior Power Days kickoff – Wednesday, July 8th at the Belle Isle Casino. The first day was public safety for seniors. The event was very well attended. Detroit Police Chief, Wayne and Macomb County Sheriff attended and representative from Oakland County attended.

Next senior event – Jazz on the Isle – July 22nd

Hodges – Belle Isle Summer Saturdays.

Polish the Jewel Luncheon – Oct 8th / Belle Isle Casino

Garden Party – September 15th / Belle Isle Conservatory

Ron mentioned the OAC ribbon cutting at 12:45 p.m. today. OAC officially opens on Monday, July 20th.

Ron mentioned the Natural Resource Academy that will be open to youth that are interested in a career in Natural Resources – 40 kids from the youth employment program.

Scott Pratt – Swim Lessons at the Belle Isle Beach - July 18th, 25th, Aug 1st, 8th and 29th

Sponsored by General Motors.

Karis – Stepping Stones Mon, Wed and Fri on Belle Isle. Archery, Camping 101 Program will run for 6 weeks

Scott Pratt mentioned that when the OAC opens, other programs for youth and adult programs

Other Updates

Mike Terrell spoke about the mowing on the park. DNR staff took on ½ of the responsibility of cutting the grass and contracted the other half. Cost saving for the department

Public Commentary

Peter Forsythe – appreciates the conservancy website. Is the City of Detroit involved in the process with the Biederman Project.

Larry Roberts – Thanks to the Advisory Committee. Roberts would like to get a copy of the Red Bull contract.

Pratt mentioned that the MOTTEP event and Red Bull came up with an agreement so both events will take place.

Betty Roberts – Tickets for Red Bull, Athletic Field Grant (650,000), MDOT Roads

Donald Green – Scott Fountain operations, Red Bull donations

Sandra Novacek – Consultants recommendation and who has the final decision. Is there a plan to reconsider the mission for Belle Isle. How long is the contract for Grand Prix. Ron stated that the contract ends in 2018, which was negotiated with the City of Detroit prior to the State of Michigan Lease Agreement.

Curis asked was the Belle Isle Master Plan on the website.

Ron introduced Dr. Dudley – Dr. Dudley spoke about 2015 youth connection's partnership with the MDNR. Serving over 500 Detroit resident youth. 13 – 20 youth will be on the island.

Update Belle Isle Conservancy

Strategic Planning Process – Cultural Campus

Hodges mentioned that the consultants will return with workshops on

July 29th - Coleman A Young Recreation Center

July 30th - Source Booksellers, in Midtown

Cultural Campus – Mentioned some of the developments near Aquarium and Conservatory

Committee member items

Curis mentioned that the Belle Isle Advisory Board is a non-paid appointment

Other items

Hodges asked about camping on the island. Karis mentioned that DNR will be hosting a Urban Camping Program. August 7th & 8th 30 youths from the City of Detroit. Campsite setup, fishing, mentoring. Camping kits will be given to participants (Donated by Chevrolet)

Joe Hall reported 116,329 in June

Increased attendance from last year June

Hodges called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

Two motions were carried:

Motion to approve absences, moved by Curis. Seconded by Peek

Motion to approve the June 18th minutes. Moved by Curis. Seconded by Peek

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

APPROVED: Date: _____

Michele Hodges
BIPAC Chairperson

Ron Olson
DNR Parks and Recreation Division Chief